Scholarships for children with disability in Gujarat

3225. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether scholarships and other supports are being provided to children with disability in Gujarat so as to encourage them to pursue studies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central Grants are being released to the State for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT PR SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) (i) The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 stipulates that appropriate Governments in their comprehensive education scheme shall make provision for, *inter-alia,* transport facilities, supply of books, uniforms and other materials to children with disabihties and the grant of scholarships to students with disabilities attending school.

(ii) The Department of Secondary and Higher Education in the Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC) in regular schools and to facilitate their retention in the school system. Under this scheme, 100% financial assistance is being provided to States/Union Territories/Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for providing facilities that include books & stationery, uniform, transport, reader & escort allowance, etc. No scholarship is provided under the scheme of IEDC State Governments give scholarships to disabled students at the school level and have varying additional incentives by way of uniforms and books.

(iii) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has introduced the Scheme of National Scholarship for Persons with Disabilities for the year 2002-2003. 250 awards each for male students and female students in different categories of disabilities will be given for pursuing technical and professional courses.

(c) and (d) Under the scheme of IEDC, Central grants are released to States/Union Territories/Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), including Gujarat. Rs. 337.62 lakhs, Rs. 554.64, lakhs and Rs. 798.15 lakhs were released to Gujarat under this scheme for the years 2000-2001,2001 -2002 and 2002-2003, respectively.